

COMMUNITY NEWS



Pictured L to R: Jennifer Grissett-treasurer, Kristin Barnes-event planner chairman, Mallory Allen-event planner co-chairman, Lindsay Lawford-president and Cameron Irwin-secretary

Senior Girls Scouts will be accepting donations for leukemia

The Senior Girl Scouts are rallying one of their own. They will be out for the next few weeks collecting money for the leukemia drive in honor of former Troop 300 member, Robyn Rhodes Wilborn, who is a leukemia survivor.

Robyn battled leukemia as an infant, enduring five years of chemotherapy. She has been symptom free since then and now devotes lots of her time and energy to fund raising for leukemia research.

Robyn and her husband, Barney, are in training now to run in the Virginia Beach Leukemia Marathon. They are

asking friends to support them in the marathon by contributing to the fight to conquer leukemia. They would like to present the money collected at the event in mid July.

Barney and Robyn live in Kechi, Kansas where Barney does research with the Excel Corporation and Robyn is a veterinarian. In his letter to friends Barney stated that "this will give me a chance to be a part of Robyn's life that I know nothing about."

Senior Girl Scout, Kristen Barnes, added, "We need to do this. We need to support Robyn, and you never know when this

disease will hit someone you love".

The Senior Scouts are asking Elba to help them fight leukemia. Checks should be made out to the Leukemia Society and are tax deductible. Contributions of cash are asked to put their name on paper attached to the money so that Robyn will know of everyone's interest and help. All Girl Scouts, present and former, are asked to contribute at least one dollar in order to put their names on the list. If you don't know a Girl Scout, call Mrs. Robert Camon.

Birmingham-Southern College Spring semester Dean's List announced

More than 300 students were named to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the Spring 2004 Term at Birmingham-Southern College. Each student earned a 3.5 or

better grade-point average while taking 16 or more credit hours during the spring semester. Wesley Kelley of Elba was listed among the academic excellence group.

Birmingham-Southern is a four-year private institution that receives consistently high rankings as one of America's top liberal arts colleges.



Bruce Taylor, President, Wiregrass Chapter, SAR (left) presents the flag certificate to Marie Lepore with Jan Wicker, Director of Nursing and Chapter Vice-President Jim Gilmer (right).

SAR Flag Certificate presented to Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home

A National Society, Sons of American Revolution Flag Certificate was presented to the Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home on Flag Day, June 14th.

In making the presentation Wiregrass Chapter, SAR Certificate Bruce Taylor noted the certificate was in recognition of exemplary patriotism in the proper display of the

National Colors by the hospital and nursing home. Accepting the certificate on behalf of the facility were Marie Lepore and Jan Wicker, Jim Gilmer, Chapter Vice-President assisted in the presentation.

The awarding of the Flag Certificate coincides with the Coffee County Commissioners' proclamation of Patriotism Month within the county which

encourages all residents to display the United States Flag.

The Sons of the American Revolution is an lineage organization composed of men who have documented blood line to an individual who fought during the American Revolution. For more information contact Taylor (347-8736) or Gilmer (897-1255).

ARCHIVES/COLLECTION MAN 1-1-2004
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Chandler
announce birth
of son

Dixie Angels All-
Stars win softball
tournament

ZC queens attend
local business's
grand opening

The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 4

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 8, 2004

1 Section, 10 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Ground breaking ceremony planned for Kelley Foods expansion project

Kelley Foods of Alabama Inc. announces the expansion of its distribution division by the end of the year.

The expansion will add 35,139 square feet to the existing facility bringing the total square footage of the distribution center to 300,000. The expanded

facility will "A Great Tastin' Sensation" support the division's business growth through 2010, and the expansion is expected to add approximately 20 new jobs to the company.

Kelley Foods is strategically located to service markets in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and

Mississippi. The expansion will allow the division to offer a broader line of frozen, refrigerated and dry food and food related products to its customer base of almost 3,000.

Kelley Foods has two divisions. The manufacturing division produces meat and food products sold under the "Kelley's" and "Tasty" brand to the retail and food service markets. The distribution division distributes over 4,700 food and food related items to the food and food service markets. Both

divisions are USDA Inspected, HACCP Certified facilities.

Kelley Foods is a family owned business founded in 1957. In 2003, its combined sales were over \$51 million and total employment was slightly over 145.

Business representatives said the City of Elba, Coffee County and the State of Alabama have always supported Kelley Foods in its mission to "help its customers grow first" by providing quality products and unmatched service the its valued customers.

A ground breaking ceremony for the expansion project will be held Thursday, July 15, at 10 a.m. on site. Kelley Foods of Alabama Inc. is located on Lower Curtis Road in Elba.

City employees test new flood gates

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The City of Elba moved one step closer in its flood prevention efforts last week when the city took over operation of three newly installed flood gates.

As part of the levee rehabilitation project, three flood gates were constructed. The largest being at the Pea River bridge on Hwy. 84 with smaller ones being built at the bridge on both Caroline, Street and Reese Avenue.

The city took control of the flood gates last week after construction crews gave operating lessons to city employees.

Three employees of the street department received instruction on operating the gates. Chosen as operators of the gates were James Richards, Danny Williams and Lee Gideon.

These employees each were issued a key to access the operating system of the gates. Without the key, the gates can not operate.

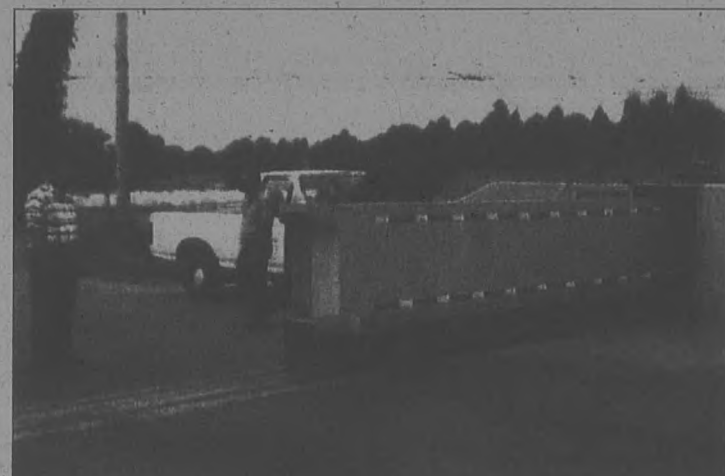
The police department also was issued a key.

The flood gates are made of steel and are easily operated by a winch. The winch is a built-in part of the gate.

Although the winch easily can be powered by a vehicle battery for operation, it is securely locked when not in use. Only those with the appropriate key can access the winch.

The gates can be closed within a matter of minutes, and once closed, pieces of rubber seal together to prevent water leakage.

Elba Mayor James Grimes was on hand last Friday for a test run of the gate on Caroline Street, and he said he was impressed with the operation. However, he also said he hopes the city never has to use the gates.



Elba Mayor James Grimes watches as street department employees test the new flood gate on Caroline Street. The city is now responsible for operating the gates if the need arises. Also pictured is street department employee Danny Williams.

Betty Brunson retires from National Security after nearly 46 years of service

It is rare to find someone in today's business climate that personifies the term "loyalty" but just such a person can be found at National Security in Human Resources Director Betty Brunson.

Brunson's career at National Security began in 1958, and she will be retiring later this month just a few months shy of 46 years of employment.

Needless to say there have been numerous changes in the business world over a period of 46 years and Brunson, not surprisingly, cites improvements in technology as having the greatest day-to-day impact. Her first position with the company was as the operator of the Varitype machine, and she recalls that the company's quarterly statements, typically a four-page document, would take almost an entire week to design and print. The same job today can be completed within a few hours.

National Security has had three chief executive officers in its history, and Brunson has worked with all three.

W.L. Brunson, founder of National Security in 1947, was CEO in 1958 and J. R. Brunson was named CEO following Mr. W.L.'s untimely death in 1978.

National Security's current CEO, Bill Brunson, is the son of W.L. Brunson, and he assumed the helm following Mr. J.R.'s retirement in 2000.

Betty feels she has gone full circle in that regard, beginning with W.L. Brunson and now seeing his son assume the top management position at the

company. National Security has earned the reputation of being a company that is "family friendly," and Brunson said she certainly feels that designation is appropriate.

She said the company has always allowed her to take opportunities to be involved with her children's lives, an opportunity not afforded to many working mothers.

Working mother is certainly a term that applies to Betty. At one point several years ago, she was attending college full-time, involved with a Boy Scout troop, a member of the choir and Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church Elba along with all the duties associated with raising two children not to mention her full-time position at National Security.

That experience has served Brunson well as human resources director as she understands the demands a family and full-time career can place on today's working mothers.

"I've never lost sight of the fact that each desk at National Security is occupied by a person," Brunson said. "Many companies treat their employees as a number, not a person, but that is not the case at National Security."

According to CEO Bill Brunson, Betty has long been the "voice and face" that people in Elba and surrounding communities have associated with National Security. He said he feels that Betty's best asset is her interpersonal skills, and



Betty Brunson with National Security's CEO Bill Brunson

she has that intangible quality of being able to recognize the people who need a pat on the back to reach their potential compared to those that need to have someone exert tough discipline towards them in order to assure their success.

"That is a quality that will be most difficult to replace," he said.

Betty and husband, Buddy, will now spend most of their time in Orange Beach, Ala. near where the couple's daughter, Suzie, husband, Keith, and their two children reside. The Brunson son, Art, his wife, Kim, and their daughter live in Andalusia.

"There will be no bells or whistles, I can sleep late, read all I want and swim in the ocean or pool," she said. "I'll also have plenty of time to supervise Buddy as he strives to complete an ever growing



A DAY OF FUN...Elba Elementary School completed its summer school session last week by treating students to a fun day for the final day of the session. Summer school was conducted throughout the month of June with several students receiving the extra instruction. On Wednesday of last week, the school gym was the place to be as several students participated in the "Crazy Olympics." The students shown above did lots of twisting and turning as they worked to move a hula-hoop around their hand-held circle without breaking the circle. Other favorite events included potato hopping and the cracker chew and whistle.

Elba City Council hears good news regarding tax revenues

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council members got good news at the June 28th meeting as the financial statement showed sales tax and tobacco tax revenues continued to exceed budget projections.

Through the first eight months of the fiscal year revenue is up \$112,000 over budget. However, the budget report shows expenses are up about \$100,000 for the same period. Mayor James Grimes explained that the City had opted to pay some bills on a one time annual basis (bonds and insurance) rather than spreading them out over the entire year.

In addition to those expenditures, the police department is

over budget by \$25,000, and the street department is over by \$18,000. A large part of the police department overage is in the unscheduled move of the dog pound. This added almost \$20,000 of expenses to the department. Salaries were up \$9,000 and the spiraling cost of gasoline cost Elba police an additional \$2,000.

The Recreation Department is up by \$13,000, with both supplies and salaries topping budget numbers. The fire department is down by \$13,000, with gasoline actually lower and firemen fees at about half projected amounts. Firemen are paid by the fire and when there are fewer than normal, the costs drop drastically.

Donations to the Chamber of Commerce have already exceeded the annual budget by \$1,126 and payments to the SE Regional Planning & Development are up by \$17,000 due to some grant work they have done for the City of Elba.

Rescue Squad appropriations are already up by almost \$8,000 over the annual budgeted amount. When the budget was written city officials were not expecting the necessary expense of restarting the Elba Rescue Squad as a non-profit organization.

The council approved the required resolution calling for municipal elections on August

24th. Up for election will be the mayor and all five council members. Qualifying began Tuesday, July 6, for the four year terms.

The council officially approved the actions of the Planning & Zoning Board in denying the rezoning of property off Hickman Avenue, across from the stockyards. Grimes noted that the owner, Wayne Lawford, had withdrawn the application when he discovered neighborhood opposition, but the council still needed to approve the board action.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham told council members that mosquito spraying in Elba is as regular as the afternoon rains will allow. He added that city crews were catching up with the trash pick-up by doubling up crews and equipment.

NOTICE

Qualifying is currently underway for the 2004 Municipal Election.

Positions up for election include mayor and city council. Persons interested in seeking one of these spots must qualify by Tuesday, July 20.

Please see the Public Notice section on Page 7 for more information.

Area Happenings

THE ELBA PUBLIC LIBRARY will host a Summer Reading Program every Thursday during the month of July at 10 a.m.

A DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT at the Victoria Baptist Church Flag Pole on Alabama Highway 125 will be held Saturday, July 17, at 2 p.m. This memorial service will commemorate the first anniversary of Jason Jordan's death in Iraq on July 20, 2003. Everyone is invited to attend, especially all military men and women. The memorial site honors all veterans - past, present and future.

A TOWN HALL MEETING will be held Thursday, July 29, at 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church Social Hall in Elba. Cheryl Morgan, an architect from Auburn University, will host the meeting concerning the revitalization of the city. During previous meetings, Morgan presented drafts and a proposed plan for renovation within the town. All merchants and concerned citizens are asked to attend this meeting.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COFFEE COUNTY FARMERS FEDERATION will be held Friday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Extension Office Complex, in New Brockton, Ala. There will be door prizes and all members are encouraged to attend.

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BRAINSTORMS

with Ferrin Cox

The following quote came in recently in some health related article. It caught our attention. You can read the quote from several angles. First, it is dealing with statistics and such numbers can be twisted to tell most any desired story. "Figures don't lie, liars do figure". In nicer words, we can use the numbers to distort things. Secondly, we have got to die from something and if your heart stops, you die and it can be classified as heart disease. It is like dying when a car crashes into a tree. ... do we blame it on "speed", "rain", "gasoline kills", "the tree killed him", etc. Thirdly, a person can read the numbers as telling us to take better care of our health and live longer. It is suspected that the intended message which follows: "There are 10,000 ways you can check out of this world," added American Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer John Seffrin. "But last year 90 percent of all deaths in America were from 10 things, and 90 percent of that 90 percent was from 4 things - heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes."

It shocked a number of our close friends and extended family members that *The Elba Clipper* closed for the holiday Monday. Usually we are struggling to get a newspaper out. However it has reached a point when there is virtually no one around for us to get ads and news from - therefore we closed and celebrated the holiday also. Yours truly handled it fairly well, mainly because of having our four year old granddaughter here for several days. The scary thing was that Tuesday morning we had a brain flash of still not wanting to come to work! That is not our normal outlook, nor by a long shot, and will become a real concern if such thoughts begin to dominate the early mornings.

We attended a traditional, long standing family reunion Saturday. There was the usual crowd, but also the daughter of a now deceased cousin, a girl we haven't seen since she was a wee baby and she now has grown children of her own. Her parents moved up north to work in Washington D.C. and didn't come back for family reunions until after she was out of college and married. She is an only child, but gave birth to five children. ... including two (2) sets of twins. We have always been amazed at that fact and still wonder what the odds are on such things happening naturally. Of course with modern medical aids to child bearing, multiple births are more often, but these were all the work of God, without a doctor's help.

This area has seen a lot of rain lately, but is still below average. In fact we are still below last year by a sizable amount. Even so a question was put to us last week about the river level. Folks if you haven't noticed, Pea River is well within its banks. The latest numbers from the seven (7) flood warning river gauges monitored by the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority show virtually every one reporting less rain than the year before. ... both in the month of June and the annual total. Of all the gauges which measure water, which flows through Elba only, Big Creek and Lowery Mill gauges showed a slight increase in June '04 over June '03 but for the year only Big Creek showed 17 of an inch over last year. Arton is down 10", Troy down over 11", Folsom Bridge down almost 9". The same for the Bullock and Barbour County measurements. Of course all this is a lot more water than was received in 2001 when Elba gauges registered a total of only 40.295 inches for the whole year, and the 2002 rainfall for Elba was 57.160 inches. To date in 2004 the Elba gauge has recorded 26.30 inches of rain, compared to 34.40 for the same period last year.

Elba High School's AHSGE Summer Remediation Schedule

The Alabama High School Graduation Exam remediation schedule for all subject area tests will be held on the following dates:

July 12-14 • 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**In addition to the above remediation sessions, approximately two hours of review will be conducted the night before each of the five subjects are administered.

The test schedule for the Summer Administration of the AHSGE will be as follows beginning promptly at 8 a.m.:

Monday, July 10 • Social Studies
Tuesday, July 10 • Science
Wednesday, July 21 • Math
Thursday, July 22 • Reading
Friday, July 23 • Language

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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

EDITORIAL

Alabama Attorney General requests "Alabama Open Meetings Act" bill be considered during any extra session of Legislature

By Troy King, Attorney General

After the close of the 2004 Regular Session, Alabama still remains in crisis. We have failed to move any closer to addressing

the most serious problem facing our state today, a lack of trust in government. During the last session Representative Blaine Gallier sponsored legislation that would have begun legisla-

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, June 28, 2004, investigated the following incidents: one disorderly conduct, one attempted suicide, four for theft of property, one burglary, one driving under the influence, one possession of marijuana, one minor in possession, one private property accident, one possession of a controlled substance, one possession of drug paraphernalia, one fireworks accident, one harassing communications, one kidnapping, one death investigation and one damaged vehicle.

The following arrests were made: one for public intoxication, one for disorderly conduct, one for driving under the influence, one for possession of marijuana, one for minor in possession, one for failure to appear, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for possession of drug paraphernalia and one for assault.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: four for not wearing a seat belt, one for passing a school bus, eight for speeding, one for driving without first obtaining a driver's license, one for a white light to rear, three for no insurance and one for a suspended driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:
MONDAY, JUNE 28 - Disturbance (noise) at 1303 Cedar Lane Dr. (1:33 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to the Elba softball field (10:40 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JUNE 29 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1204 Deal St. (9:50 a.m.); Minor 2-vehicle wreck reported at Shell station (12:26 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 617 Kendrick Apt. (2:43 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 53 County Rd. 342 (5:01 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) in the area of the Troy Hwy. and Cedar Lane Dr. (6:49 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) on Cedar Lane Dr. (6:50 p.m.); Disturbance (fireworks) reported at 716 Putnam St. (8:34 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30 - River stage - 8.17 feet (7:04 a.m.); Eight (not in progress) reported at 611 Jackson St. (9:23 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 353 County Rd. 363 (1:13 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 1110 Martin Luther King Dr. (10:49 p.m.).

THURSDAY, JULY 1 - River stage - 9.36 feet (6:58 a.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported near Williams and Garrett St. (10:19 p.m.).

FRIDAY, JULY 2 - River stage - 8.17 feet (7:10 a.m.); Possible fight in progress reported at 1277 Neil Grantham Dr. (8:23 p.m.); Accident reported at the MarketPlace parking lot (9:53 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to the MarketPlace parking lot (9:54 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (9:54 p.m.).

SATURDAY, JULY 3 - River stage - 7.58 feet (7:01 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 573 Canley Ave. (9:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1637 Reese Ave. (10:44 a.m.); Possible wreck reported near Moseley's Studio (9:13 p.m.).

SUNDAY, JULY 4 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 11750 Hwy. 125 N. (7:08 a.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 625 Reynolds St. (11:54 a.m.); Disturbance (fireworks) reported at 1110 Martin Luther King Dr. (10:49 p.m.).

BULLETIN BOARD
• ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S. addiction recovery ministry services • Thurs. 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Baptist Church • Call 565-3970 or visit the website: www.inabaptist.com
• SOCIAL SECURITY - REP. Courtroom 400 Tues. 12:30-1:30 Call FREE 1-800-772-1213
• ROTARY CLUB - SERVICE Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday 6 p.m. City Hall
• WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6 p.m. City Hall
• ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. Tues. 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
• CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP every Monday 6:30 p.m. Elba United Methodist Church center on side on W. Davis St. Maggie Garrett Classroom
• COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Monday Community Room in Park Center Complex @ New Brockton
• LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizen Center
• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Sup. Office
• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall - Troy Hwy.
• MASONIC LODGE 176 - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School
• VETERANS - SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri. 8:12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 984-5858
• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. 3 p.m. Club House
• COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - 1:00 p.m. Enterprise
• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll/Hanger at the Airport
• 4-STAR meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month
• ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st & 3rd Monday 7 p.m. Elba High boys locker room
• NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

tion, entitled the "Alabama Open Meetings Act," would have provided significant revisions to the current vague and outdated open meetings law. The Alabama Press Association strongly supported this legislation, and I was a vocal proponent of it as well.

Our republican form of government rests upon our ability to see and understand the actions taken by our elected officials and our ability to hold them accountable for their actions. If meetings in which important decisions occur behind a veil of secrecy, how can we, the people, hold them accountable? Governor Riley called for greater transparency in government during his 2004 "State of the State" address. Transparency can only be achieved by allowing the people to see, hear, and read the actions of those elected or appointed to serve in our government. The greatest law fails in providing this transparency.

The Legislature did pass an amendment to the current "Sunshine Law" that allows for a board or commission to into an executive or secret session while discussing matters "the public of which could reasonably be expected to be detrimental to the public safety or welfare." This was a needed adjustment, but it is a far cry from what is needed to provide fundamental change.

Under Representative Gallier's legislation, the exceptions are narrowly tailored to provide confidentiality only where it is absolutely needed. The exceptions are listed with specificity to provide a clear guideline for all governmental bodies to easily follow. The legislation defines key terms such as "meeting," governmental body," and general reputation and character." While no legislation failed, let us not miss another hold accountable those who continue to stall and subvert efforts to bring accountability to our government. Show your support for this legislation. Call, email, or write your state representative or state senator, and tell them you support Representative Gallier's "Alabama Open Meetings Act." Write letters to the editor, and most importantly, vote. Do not sit idly by as your government labors along. Stand up, be heard, and help determine the direction of your state. You can make a difference.

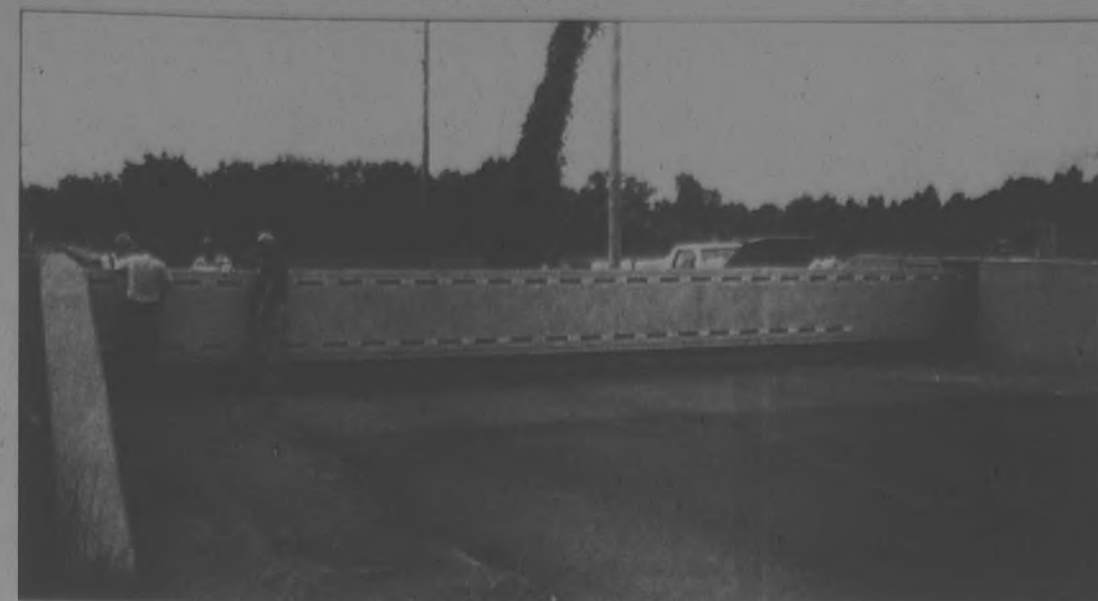
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THE ELBA CLIPPER • THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2004



FULLY EXTENDED...City employees discuss the closing of the flood gate on Caroline Street with Elba Mayor James Grimes last Friday morning following a test run. Those shown include: Lee Gideon, James Richards, Grimes, Herby McCall and Danny Richards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

First of all I want to commend Ricky Mulaz and the recreation staff for a job well done in preparing the fields under abnormal circumstances during the Dixie Angels sub-district tournament. Second, as a former resident of Elba I would like to say I was totally embarrassed by the actions of the home plate umpire during the game between Elba and Troy on June

30. During the game there were a couple of calls made by the umpire in the field that were questionable in the eyes of the Troy fans, during which the Troy fans made comments to the base umpire such as, "come on blue," "you missed that one blue," but nothing to warrant the actions of the home plate umpire by throwing EVERY ONE on Troy's side out of the

park. He later decided he could not identify specific individuals who were making the comments and therefore issued a warning. I fully understand the umpires must be in control of the game at all times, but this outburst was totally uncalled for and most of all extremely UNPROFESSIONAL.

In no way am I saying these calls cost Troy the game, because Elba had the best team and we in Troy congratulate them and hope they continue to play well.

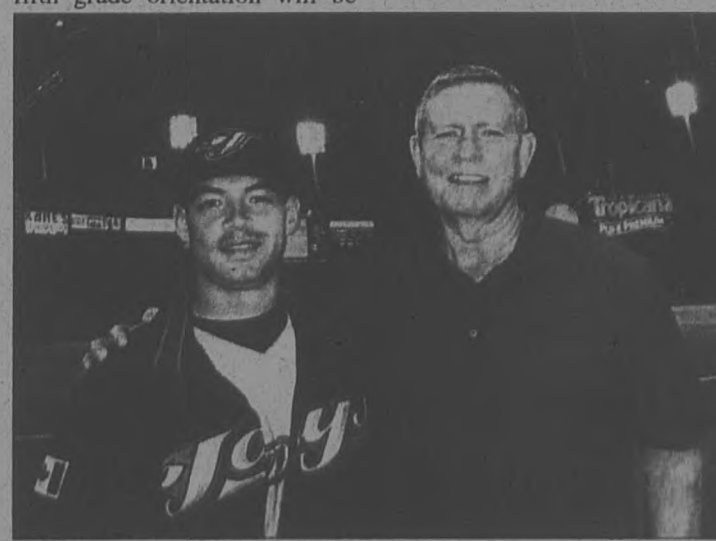
Joey Holley
Troy

Elba Elementary School plans parent orientation

Elba Elementary School will be having Parent Orientation for grades 1-6 during the week of August 2-5. The schedule will be listed below. At each orientation, parents will be informed of information pertinent to their child's upcoming grade-level. The grade-level teachers will conduct orientations. All parents are highly recommended to attend orientation to become acquainted with parent and student expectations for the 2004-2005 school year. Class assignments will be given out during orientation. For students whose parents do not attend orientation, class assignments will not be posted until Friday, August 5, 2004. If you need further information regarding Parent Orientation, please contact Ms. Lakesha Brackins at 334-897-2814.

Orientation Schedule:
Monday, August 2, 2004 sixth and third grade's orientation will be held. The sixth grade orientation will be from 5 - 6 p.m. and the third grade's will be from 6 - 7 p.m. Tuesday August 3, 2004 fifth and second grade's orientation will be held. The fifth grade orientation will be from 5 - 6 p.m. and second grade's will be from 6 - 7 p.m.

On Thursday, July 29, 2004, the Elba Chamber of Commerce will host "Pets on Parade." This event is open to children ages 12 and under who have a prized pet. Children will be able to showcase their pets as judges pick winners from each special category. Prizes will be awarded. The categories include: Small dogs, Large dogs, cats, fish, birds, and other furry friends. The entry fee is \$5.00 per animal. The event begins at 5 p.m. and judging will begin at 5:30 p.m. We invite everyone to come out and enjoy "Pets on Parade."



MAJOR LEAGUE...Joe Hodge Jr. of Clearwater, Fla. visited with Toronto Blue Jays relief pitcher Michael Nakamura Monday, June 28, at Tropicana Field. The Blue Jays were in Florida at the time playing the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Hodge, a native of Elba, is an uncle to Nakamura's wife, Misty (Boland) Nakamura. She is the daughter of Jearl and Bertie Bolland of Elba.

Bridal Registry
Laura Crowe & Ben Terrell
Shower: 523/04 Wedding: 7/17/04
Elena Stong & Jeff Leonard
Shower: 6/06/04 Wedding: 7/10/04
Briar Patch Garden & Gift Shoppe
On the Square • Downtown Elba • 897-8591

FAX SERVICE AVAILABLE AT THE ELBA CLIPPER

Obituaries

CATHERYN SHARPLESS

Mrs. Catheryn Sharpless Bryan, age 76, of Elba, Ala., died Tuesday, June 22, 2004 at Elba Nursing Home in Elba, Ala.

Funeral services were held June 25, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Randall Pearson and Rev. Roy Davis officiating. Burial followed in Hudson Cemetery of Elba.

Mrs. Bryan was preceded in death by a grandson, David Bryan.

Survivors include her husband: W.T. Bryan, Elba; three sons: Donnie L. Bryan and Gary Mitchell Bryan, both of Dothan, (Michael) Wayne Bryan, Elba; two brothers: James R. Sharpless, Elba, Charles Edmond Sharpless, Atlanta Ga.; and nine grandchildren.

WILLARD E. "SHORTY" MARTIN
Mr. Willard E. (Shorty) Martin, age 79, of Elba, Ala., died Saturday, July 3, 2004 at his residence in Elba.

The Martin family requests funeral services were held July 6, 2004 at First Baptist Church of Elba with Rev. Mart Gray and Rev. Roger Miller officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba.

The Martin family requests contributions be made to First Baptist Church of Elba. Survivors include his wife: Olive Ray Martin, Elba; two daughters: Terri Martin (Larry) Miller, Jack, Ala., and Ann Martin (Joey) Ritchey, Birmingham, Ala.; one son: Will (Melanie S.) Martin, Millbrook, Ala.; four grandchildren and one grandson.

COLEY MOULTRY
Deacon Coley Moultry, age 97, of Pike County, died Tuesday, June 22, 2004.

Funeral services were held June 28, 2004 at St. John Baptist Church in New Hope, Ala., with Pastor N.R. Johnson officiating. Burial followed at St. John Baptist Church Cemetery in New Hope with Coleman

Funeral Home of Elba directing. Mrs. Moultry was preceded in death by his siblings: L.K. George, Young, Albert, Will, Johnny Mae, Annie Mae, Ella Mae, and Robbie Lee; one child, Coley D. (Raymond); a daughter-in-law, Ann Moultry; and two grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife: Arline Coleman Moultry; twelve children: Collie Mae Neil, Colene Brandy, both of Enterprise, Ala.; Mary Kaynes, Margaret (Michael) Johnson, Maureen (Robert) Adams, all of Brundidge, Ala.; Johnny M. (Annie D.) Moultry, A.W. (Annie W.) Moultry, James Moultry, Brundidge; Louie Moultry, Troy, Ala.; and Louis Frank Moultry, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; 48 grandchildren; 84 great-grandchildren, and 34 great-great-grandchildren.

LILLIE MAE JACKSON
Mrs. Lillie Mae Jackson, age 79, died Saturday, June 26, 2004.

Funeral services were held July 2, 2004 at Mount Pleasant AME Church of Paxton, Fla., with Pastor Willie J. Powell officiating. The interment followed at Samson City Cemetery in Samson, Ala., with Coleman Funeral Home of Elba, directing.

She was preceded in death by two daughters: Annie Ruth Shipman and Piskie Lee Williams; two sons: Henry Jr.

Jackson and Terry Lee Jackson, two brothers: Deanne Scott and Eddie Dean Scott, and three sisters: Lillie Ruth Jones, Elder Dot Townsend, and Annie Mae McCullure.

Survivors include six children: Roy Lee Shipman (Roxanne) of St. Peter, Fla.; Willie C. Shipman (Mary) of Immokalee, Fla.; C.W. Jackson of Enterprise, Ala.; Lizzie Lee Jones (Eddie) of Paxton; Mary Ann Jones (Felix) of Gannt, Ala.; three brothers: Robert Lee Scott of Louisiana; James Henry Scott (Barbara) of Samson; Henry Lee Scott (Jessie) of Samson; seven sisters: Essie Mae Shipman (Alexander) of Fort Meyer, Fla.; Epie Poon of Samson; Linda Wildon (David) of Lakeland, Fla.; Annie Pearl Thomas of Philadelphia, Penn.; Essie Laurel Wilson (James) of Enterprise; Limmie Jean Townsend (JV) of Enterprise; and Rosa Bell Townsend (Leonard) of Headland, Ala.; 41 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Pre-need funeral planning now available at **Hayes Funeral Home**
For details Call 897-2225

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Note of Thanks.
We, the family of the late Catheryn Bryan, would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their many acts of kindness shown to us during the illness and passing of our loved one. We would like to especially thank the staff of the Elba Nursing Home for their support. Their generosity will forever be remembered.
The Bryan Family

A Memorial To "Daddy Grover" (Grover Belcher) Who Went Home to Receive His Blessed Reward on July 5, 1999
"Where's Our Daddy?"

At times like these, those of us remaining, search desperately for some way of expressing the height, depth, and width of our grief and sorrow. Some simply choose to do it with songs, others with poems and verses, and still others with simple admiration in prose.

We, the offspring and descendants of Daddy Grover, choose to make our expression by simply inviting you to join our search party as we look for him in all of his old familiar places. Let's look for him in the fields, where he labored so very long and hard, providing for Mama Eria and their nine kids--especially those five greedy, headheaded boys who would eat just about anything in sight, and those four sweet little girls who were always needing a few more pieces of ribbon, or a new strand of lace. We looked for him in the field, but he wasn't to be found. So, let's now look for him in the church (Old Rocky Head Missionary Baptist) where he spent so many days (And not just Sundays) waiting very patiently, but also just as eagerly, in the first pew, waiting for the opportunity to jump up and present one of his "sayings"-- or one of what he called his "metaphors". And if you knew him at all, you knew if he became emotional, any speaker, any singer, and preacher was in danger. Why? Because Daddy Grover would run to that person, grab that person in a bearhug, and refuse to let that person go until he felt a blessing. But, we looked for him in the church as well, and he wasn't to be found.

Still, there's one last place we have yet to look. Finally, let's look for him in his home-workshop, where he thought he was a latter-day doctor George Washington Carver. Daddy Grover believed he could make anything if he "studied" it long enough. He would pick it up, turn it from side to side, top to bottom, and then mumble quietly to himself "Uh Huh, Uh Huh -- I think I got it now!" Then he would shout aloud "I can make one of them!" (And in reply to any gift he received, he would always say "thank you, thank you, thank you." Without fail, those words or appreciation were always said three times -- no more, no less.) But, we looked for him in his home-workshop as well, and still he wasn't to be found. Wait a minute! Look! Guess What! Thank God Almighty! We just found our Daddy at last! And you know what?! He has always been right where we finally found him. And if you want to hear him, if you want to see him, if you really want to reach out and touch him, just ask his offspring and descendants and we'll share him with you. Because (Eureka!), We found him at long last right where he has always been: Residing lovingly and eternally deep within all our hearts. Sho' Nuff!!

Ernestine, Milton, Joyce, Paul, Alan, Warren, Juanita and Evelyn

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday

Clark Theatres • Enterprise
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2004
Enterprise Shopping Center
I. KING ARTHUR (PG-13)
M-F 7 & 9:30 • S&S 2, 7 & 9:30
No Pases • No Wed Night Discount
II. ANCHORMAN (PG-13)
M-F 7:15 & 9:15 • S&S 2, 7:15 & 9:15
No Pases • No Wed Night Discount
Enterprise Center
III. SHERLOCK (PG)
M-F 7 ONLY • S&S 2 & 7
IV. PARENHET 911 (R)
M-F 9 ONLY • S&S 9 ONLY
V. SLEEPER (PG)
M-F 7 ONLY • S&S 2 & 7
No Pases • No Wed Night Discount
WHITE CHICKS (PG-13)
M-F 7:15 & 9:15 • S&S 9 ONLY
KIDNAP MATINEES BEGIN JULY 14
COLLEGE CINEMA
WED JULY 14, 9:30 A.M.
College Cinema • College Plaza
I. SPIDERMAN (PG-13)
M-F 7 & 9:30 • S&S 2, 7 & 9:30
No Pases • No Wed Night Discount
II. THE NOTEBOOK (PG-13)
M-F 7:15 ONLY • S&S 2 & 7:15
DOUGERALL (PG-13)
A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY
M-F 8:30 ONLY • S&S 2 & 8:30
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SPORTS

Views from...

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The long summer softball season finally came to an end for Melanie last week and after looking at the bruises on her legs and waist the night after the final game it may have come just in time. Melanie found out the hard way that when you are a good hitter the opponents sometimes take notice as she was hit by a pitch five times in the final two games in the tournament, and late in the final game collided with a teammate while running for a pop-up and took a hard hit just inside the hip. It was fun while it lasted, but even a young body needs a rest now and then!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** The Elba Dixie Angels All-Stars punched their ticket to the District Tournament last week by winning the sub-district title in Elba. The Angels claimed four wins in five games to win the tournament title, and defeated pre-tourney favorite Troy twice along the way. These young ladies worked hard getting ready for the tournament and really made us all very proud when they walked off the field with the championship trophy. Congratulations to the girls and to Kim and Stuart Bane for their fine job coaching. The tournament last week should make the league even better next season.

*** The Elba Dixie Belles All-Stars placed second in the sub-district tournament in Luerne and simply could not get past Troy in their quest to bring home the tourney crown. The Belles survived an opening round loss to Troy to bounce back and make their way to the championship game, but ran out of gas after hanging out 19 hits and scoring 32 runs in a win over Greenville. These girls competed against both the Belles and Debs during the regular season and never complained, and even though they were forced to play the second last week in Luerne, they represented Elba and their league very well. Good job.

*** The heavy rains that dumped water on the ball fields last week resulted in many long hours of hard work for the members of the Elba Recreation Department; however, only two nights were rained out in the eleven nights of scheduled games and everyone in attendance was amazed at the condition of the fields after the work was completed. It took a lot of sand and a lot of raking to get the fields ready, but the games went on as planned and no teams suffered because of the rain. I'll admit the Rec crews also got a little lucky as some of the storms by-passed Elba just in the nick of time.

*** The Elba Dixie Youth All-Stars are hosting the sub-district tournament at Legion Field and even though they split their first two games the Elba boys did make some noise. Kyle Pope gave Elba an early 2-0 lead against Enterprise with a long two-run homer with Brundidge. No doubt these guys have given the Elba fans plenty to cheer about already.

*** In closing, a settlement was reached last week between the Washington County Board of Education and a group of parents and alumni that will allow the students at McIntosh High School to choose a new mascot for the school. The school's nickname was the Demons until it was dropped in 2001, and since that time it has been the only school in the state that did not have a nickname. The old mascot will be among the names to be voted on when school "reopens" later this summer, and many feel the nickname "Demons" will be reinstated. The nickname was dropped after a complaint by a local pastor back in 2001 and the students then voted in the new nickname "Players," but it too was dropped because of it being a slang term for street hustlers. One thing for sure, this election will be one that draws statewide attention.

ELBA CITY POOL

HOURS OF OPERATION:

MONDAY - CLOSED

TUESDAY - FRIDAY 12:00 - 6:00

SATURDAY 10:00 - 6:00 SUNDAY 1:00 - 5:00

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Claim four wins in five games

Dixie Angels All-Stars claim tournament title

The Elba Dixie Angels All-Stars posted four wins in five games last week to claim the championship of the Dixie Angels District 6, Sub-District A Softball Tournament, held at the Elba High School softball field, in Elba.

Luerne placed second in the six-team event, followed in order by Troy, Highland Home, Greenville and Covington County.

Following are highlights of Elba's games in the tournament:

ELBA 21
TROY 16

The Elba All-Stars fell behind 3-1 early, but broke loose and scored 18 runs in their next three at-bats and held on late to outscore Troy 21-16, in opening round action. Aaliyah Horstead walked and later scored on a fielder's choice to give Elba a quick 1-0 lead, only to see Troy plate three runs in the bottom of the first to grab a 3-1 advantage. Elba combined nine walks with a single by Paige Gibson to score seven runs in the top of the second and the All-Stars regained the lead at 8-3, and Elba added four runs in the third to extend their lead to 12-3. Molly McGuire and Sarah Bane both singled in the fourth round, and Elba combined the two hits with five walks and an error to take command. Troy combined seven walks with three Elba errors to plate eight runs in the bottom of the third as Troy cut the Elba lead to 12-11. However, the Elba All-Stars bounced right back in their next at-bat and scored seven runs to move ahead 19-11. Five walks helped ignite the late Elba rally, but the All-Stars also swung the bats as Kayla Bagwell, Molly McGuire, Mandi Mallory and Paige Gibson all had base hits in the big Elba inning. Mandi Mallory scored in the fifth and Kayla Bagwell scored in the sixth as Elba opened up a 21-11 lead, but Troy staged one final rally and scored five runs in its final at-bat to pull within 21-16 before Elba settled down and posted the wild win. Molly McGuire and Kayla Bagwell both had 2 hits and scored 3 runs to lead Elba, while Mandi Mallory added 2 hits and scored 2 runs, Paige Gibson added 2 hits and scored 1 run, Sarah Bane had 1 hit and scored 2 runs, Aaliyah Horstead scored 3 runs and Jacquetta Daniels and Shabria Thomas both scored 2 runs.

The Elba All-Stars scored three runs in each of the final two innings to rally and post a wild 13-10 win over Troy. Elba jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Aaliyah Horstead walked and later scored on an RBI single by Sarah Bane, but saw Troy take a 2-1 lead in the second and had to rally in the bottom of the inning to regain the lead at 3-2. Shelby Vinson drew a walk to open the inning and later scored on a single by Kayla Bagwell, while Shabria Thomas scored 2 runs and left the bases loaded to get three straight walks. Troy broke loose for eight runs in the third inning to open up a 10-3 advantage and appeared to be in control, however, Troy failed to score again as Bethany Wilson took command on the rubber, and Elba never stopped scoring as the All-Stars rallied to pull out the win! Elba combined five walks with a bases-loaded triple by Bethany Wilson to open up a 2-0 lead in the top of the first, only to see Luerne hang out 3 hits to cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the frame. Elba combined two walks with a double by Paige Gibson and singles by Molly McGuire and Mandi Mallory to open up a 5-1 lead in the second, then took advantage of six walks in the third inning to plate two runs and extended its lead to 7-1. The Elba All-Stars saw four batters draw walks in the top of the fourth, and combined the free passes with singles by Paige Gibson and Shabria Thomas to score four runs as the All-Stars ended the game early with the score at 11-1. Paige Gibson had 3 hits and scored 1 run to lead Elba, while Molly McGuire added 1 hit and scored 2 runs and Bethany Wilson added 1 hit and scored 1 run. Sarah Bane and Jacquetta Daniels both scored 2 runs and Kelsey Sanders, Brianna Jackson and Kayla Bagwell all scored 1 run.

ELBA 13
TROY 10

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ELBA DIXIE ANGELS ALL-STARS - 2004 SUB DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

ELBA 11
LUERNE 1

The Elba All-Stars made it look easy in second round action as they rolled past Luerne 11-1, in four innings. Elba combined three walks with a bases-loaded triple by Bethany Wilson to open up a 2-0 lead in the top of the first, only to see Luerne hang out 3 hits to cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the frame. Elba combined two walks with a double by Paige Gibson and singles by Molly McGuire and Mandi Mallory to open up a 5-1 lead in the second, then took advantage of six walks in the third inning to plate two runs and extended its lead to 7-1. The Elba All-Stars saw four batters draw walks in the top of the fourth, and combined the free passes with singles by Paige Gibson and Shabria Thomas to score four runs as the All-Stars ended the game early with the score at 11-1. Paige Gibson had 3 hits and scored 1 run to lead Elba, while Molly McGuire added 1 hit and scored 2 runs and Bethany Wilson added 1 hit and scored 1 run. Sarah Bane and Jacquetta Daniels both scored 2 runs and Kelsey Sanders, Brianna Jackson and Kayla Bagwell all scored 1 run.

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TROY 10

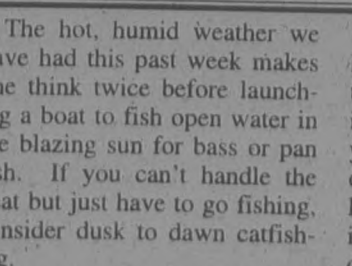
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Let's Go...Outdoors with Ben
by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist

July is a good month for catfishing



The hot, humid weather we have had this past week makes one think twice before launching a boat to fish open water in the blazing sun for bass or pan fish. If you can't handle the heat but just have to go fishing, consider dusk to dawn catfishing.

I know of no other fish that will bite such a wide selection of baits. Fishing methods are many also. Trot lines, rod and reel, bush hooks, set poles and jug fishing are the most popular. Some even go "catfish grabbing" by diving in shallow water and running their hands into hollow logs feeling for catfish. This is one method I do not fish. This one method I do not fish. This one method I do not fish.

Jug fishing is one of the most relaxing, carefree forms of catfishing. Any buoyant material will do for a float as long as it has enough buoyancy to bring the fish back to the surface and is manageable in a boat. For years bleach jugs were the floats of choice, but many now use the large soda bottles. The latest fad in floats is the "swimmers noodle." These are the long cylinders shaped foam floats you see children playing with in pools. I have not tried them yet, but have a friend who now jugs fishes exclusively with them. He says they are compact to store, have good buoyancy, and are safe as you can embed the hook in the "noodle" when stored. He selects the brightly colored ones and cuts the noodle in three or four sections, depending on the size of catfish that may be encountered.

Fishing from the bank at night for cats along small streams can be quite productive too. If you can find a bamboo patch and get permission to gather 25 or 30 poles, you are in business. If

If you can't find bamboo, just cut limber saplings about one inch at the base and use them for your fishing poles. Attach 6 to 8 foot of line; add a weight and a no. 2 hook. Walk the bank and look for likely spots to flip your bait into. Next, jab the sharpened big end of the pole into the bank with sufficient angle to hold it when a fish takes the bait. Less fish will be lost if the poles can be checked every two hours.

If you put out your jugs or poles early enough, you may have enough fish by dark to have a streamside fish fry. It takes only a few moments to throw in a portable stove, a deep frying pan and a little meal. There is no scientific way to prove that fish taste better when cooked outside by a stream. But those of us who have experienced it, we know it's a fact - scientific or not.

Reds Post Unbeaten Season... In Tee-Ball Baseball League. Pictured above (front row, l-r) Tristen Tindell, Benjamin Curtis, Jadan Purvis, Dalton Parrish, John Davis, (middle row, l-r) Zachery Cowart, Shaun Carter, Tyler Hobbs, B.J. Free, Matthew Morris, Erick Davis, (back row, l-r) Coaches Jamie Hobbs, Gary Bryant, Steve Carney and head coach Marsha Free.

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Reds Post Unbeaten Season... In Tee-Ball Baseball League. Pictured above (front row, l-r) Tristen Tindell, Benjamin Curtis, Jadan Purvis, Dalton Parrish, John Davis, (middle row, l-r) Zachery Cowart, Shaun Carter, Tyler Hobbs, B.J. Free, Matthew Morris, Erick Davis, (back row, l-r) Coaches Jamie Hobbs, Gary Bryant, Steve Carney and head coach Marsha Free.

SPORTS

Eliminate Brundidge

Elba Dixie Youth All-Stars stay alive

The Elba Dixie Youth All-Stars began play last weekend in the District 9, Sub-District 1 Baseball Tournament and after two nights of action were still alive in the double-elimination event with one win and one loss.

Following are highlights of the opening two games:

ENTERPRISE 12
ELBA 2

The All-Stars opened tournament play on Friday night against the Enterprise Americans and came away with a short end of a 12-2 decision. The All-Stars came out ready to play and brought the Elba fans to their feet in the top of the first when Jantzen Flowers reached on a walk and then trotted home when Kyle Pope blasted a two-run homer over the center field fence. The 2-0 Elba lead didn't last for long; however, as the Enterprise scored three runs in the third and one in both the fourth and fifth innings, but Enterprise had much better luck finding the plate as the Americans added three runs in the fifth to close out the 12-2 win. Kyle Pope ripped a two-run homer to lead Elba at the plate, but Pope's blast was the only hit the All-Stars could manage. Hunter Hudson and Trey Smith both had 2 hits and scored 3 runs to lead Enterprise at the plate.

The Elba All-Stars stayed alive in the double-elimination tournament by slipping past Brundidge 9-8, in an elimination contest on Saturday night. Brundidge scored five runs in the top of the first inning to jump out to a quick 5-0 lead, but Elba refused to fold and scored three runs in their half of the frame to cut the lead to 5-2. Elba left off walk to Jantzen Flowers ignited the Elba rally, while Devin Jackson and Kyle Pope followed with rbi doubles and Pope later scored on a two-out single by Kevin Allen as the Elba Stars cut into the early Brundidge advantage. Kit Johnson reached on an error and later scored on an rbi single by Jonathan Farmer as Elba pulled within 5-4 in the bottom of the second, but Brundidge struck for two runs in the third and one in both the fourth and fifth innings, but Enterprise had much better luck finding the plate as the Americans added three runs in the fifth to close out the 12-2 win. Kyle Pope ripped a two-run homer to lead Elba at the plate, but Pope's blast was the only hit the All-Stars could manage. Hunter Hudson and Trey Smith both had 2 hits and scored 3 runs to lead Enterprise at the plate.

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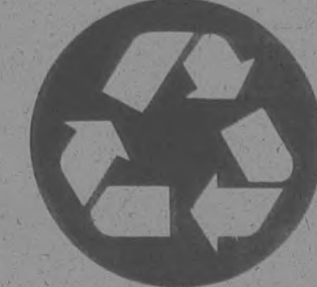
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COMMUNITY NEWS



XTREME FITNESS CENTER 24-HOUR GYM AND TANNING celebrated its grand opening Saturday, July 3rd. The center is located on Alabama Highway 87 north of Elba. Among those present to assist the owners with the grand opening ceremonies were the Zion Chapel beauty queens. Those pictured above include: Junior Miss Zion Chapel Amber Grissett; Slade, Stephanie, Gage, Danny, Skyler and Kathy Nalley - owners; and Future Little Miss Zion Chapel Angel Flowers.



Kimberly Ward named to Dean's List at the University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi Dean's List has been released for the 2004 spring semester.

Dean's List scholars are those with at least a 3.25 grade point average but less than a 4.0. A student recognized includes Kimberly Wynell Ward of Elba, Ala.

Former Elba resident publishes book

Mike Stanton-Rich, a 1978 Elba High School graduate, recently published a book entitled: *It's My Job* through Lulu Enterprises, Inc., of North Carolina (www.lulu.com). Copies are available from the publisher or your favorite online bookseller.

It's My Job is a collection of short stories covering the diverse work life of an adventurous individual. It is described as a book that is about "making a living, and ultimately a life." From his FFA projects to his work as a pastor, Stanton-Rich shows that his work history is not only humorous, but has some depth as well.

It's My Job has been used in elementary classrooms and in teaching English to Japanese college students. Persons of all

ages and cultures have discovered it as an entertaining read. This book has a way of asking some serious questions like: "Who are you? What is important in life? What do you want to do when you grow up?" But they are asked in a warm and witty way.

Stanton-Rich is currently the pastor of Kobe Union Church, an international and interdenominational church in Kobe, Japan. He is a United Methodist pastor who has served in Western North Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama. He is a graduate of Huntingdon College, Duke University and the University of Maryland.

He is a self-described "tale-spinner" and uses story to preach, teach and inspire. He preaches nearly every Sunday to

a multilingual congregation in Japan, and regularly shares stories of growing up in the rural south with business people, student groups and through various publications.

More information on Mike Stanton-Rich and *It's My Job* are available online at: <http://www.lulu.com/seatomy-pants/>.

NOTICE

A TOWN HALL MEETING will be held Thursday, July 29, at 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church Social Hall in Elba. Cheryl Morgan, an architect from Auburn University, will host the meeting concerning the revitalization of the city.



Coffee County Youth Leadership Class 2003 - 2004...from left to right: Front Row: Kristine Campbell (Enterprise); Cameron Irwin (Elba); Rebecca English (Elba); Kristin Barnes (Elba); Lindsay Lawford (Elba); Genevieve Olinb (Enterprise); Brittney Holley (Kinston); Breann Hattaway (Kinston); Tiffany Wilson (Kinston); Middle Row: Taylor McGuire (Elba); Roy King (Zion Chapel); Drew Donaldson (New Brockton); Bradley Bane (Elba); Kaleb Dyess (Elba); Back Row: Kristi Spinks (Elba); Brittney Houston (Enterprise); Shana Grondin (New Brockton); Freda Kelley (New Brockton); Kathy Erker (Enterprise); Allison Jennings (Enterprise); Jessica Goetz (Enterprise); Tiffany McGrath (Enterprise); Jessica Lacey (Enterprise); Sonya Hornsby (New Brockton). Not pictured: Michael Sneed (Zion Chapel).

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The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 5

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 15, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Court declares Coffee County School System unitary

In a final judgment received Monday, July 12, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama declared the Coffee County School System

to be unitary and dismissed the Lee vs. Coffee County Board of Education litigation.

As noted in the court's order, the Lee litigation "began as part of a statewide class action filed in 1963 alleging that the State has operated a mandatory, segregated school system."

The Coffee County Schools were added to the suit in 1969.

In a previous order released as part of a consent decree in September 1998, the court declared the Coffee County system unitary "in the areas of transportation and student assignment between schools."

The other areas that remained before the court were "faculty assignment and hiring, student in-class assignment, including the awarding of diplomas, special education, including gifted and talented, discipline,

extracurricular activities, facilities and quality of education."

On July 31, 2003, Coffee County filed a motion with the court to be dismissed in full from the Lee vs. Coffee County litigation. That motion was the subject of a fairness hearing held at the Federal Courthouse in Dothan on Feb. 19, 2004.

Following that hearing and briefing by the parties, the court issued its current decision, holding that:

"On the basis of the record evidence, witness testimony, and averments of counsel, the court finds that notice of the fairness hearing was properly given, and that the school district defendants have met the standards entitling the district to a declaration of unitary status. The Board has fully and satisfactorily complied with the orders of this court. The vestiges of the prior de jure segregated school system have been eliminated to the extent practicable.

The court went on to declare that control over the system was "properly reversioned to the Coffee County Board of Education" and ended the court's supervision.

"On behalf of the Coffee County Board of Education, I want to emphasize that this decision does not by any means end the efforts of the System to

act in a nondiscriminatory manner with regard to all of its activities," said Dr. Linda Ingram, superintendent of the Coffee County School System. "The board has long had an official policy that it does not discriminate in any of its practices on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age." Nothing about this decision will change

the plaintiff parties have succeeded in the task they began decades ago to seek the end of the de jure system of school desegregation in the Coffee County school district. By this lawsuit, they sought to bring the district in compliance with the constitutional requirement of equal protection under the law and the court states today that they have succeeded. By its actions today, the court recognizes and congratulates the sustained efforts of all the parties in bringing this long-standing litigation to a final conclusion."

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Elba Municipal Election Qualifiers (As of Press Time, Tuesday, July 13)

Mayor
James E. Grimes (Incumbent)
Randy G. Bedsole

City Council, Dist. 1
L.M. Burch (Incumbent)
Tom G. Hooks

City Council, Dist. 2
David Bandstra (Incumbent)
Helen C. Farris

City Council, Dist. 3
H.H. Culver (Incumbent)

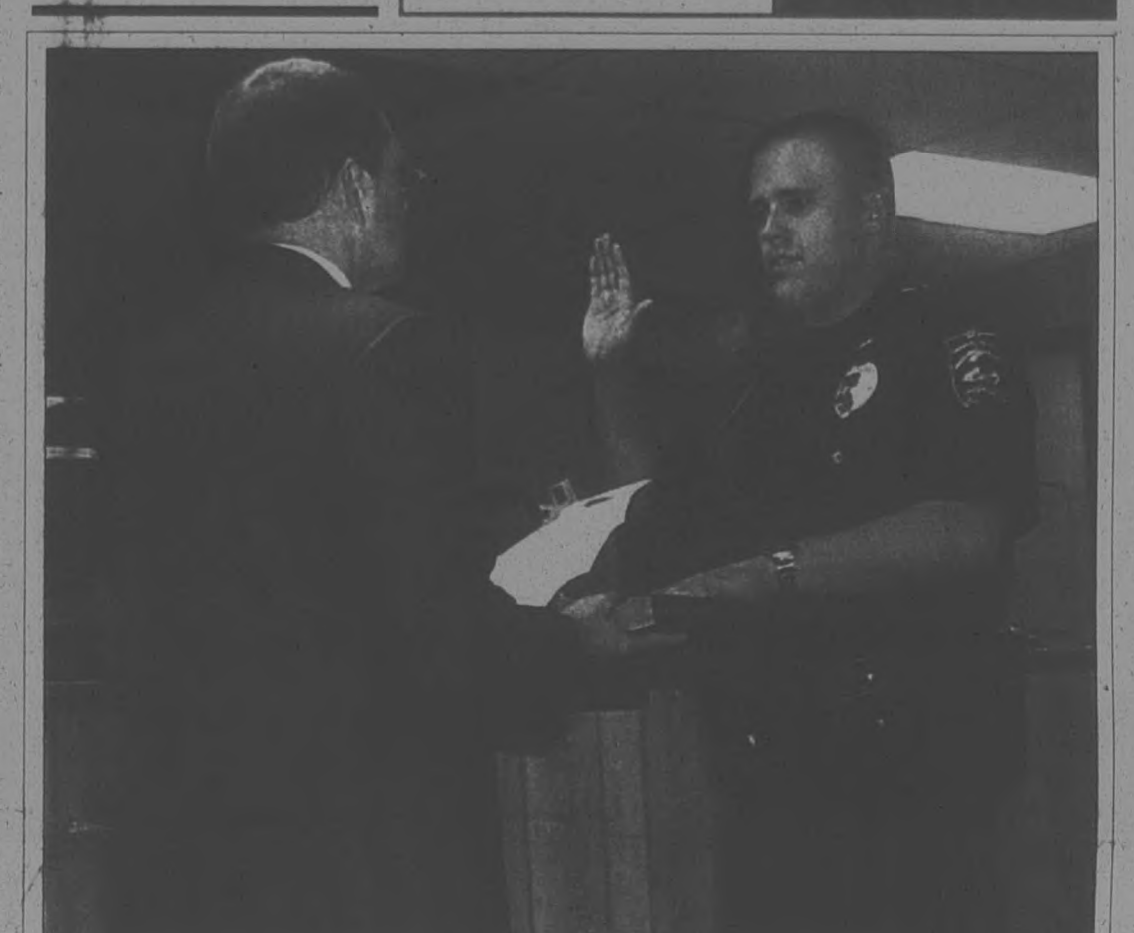
City Council, Dist. 4
Harold Spicer (Incumbent)

City Council, Dist. 5
None

Qualifying Ends:
Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Election Day:
Tuesday, August 24, 2004

Please See UNITARY, Page 3



TAKING AN OATH...Officer Scott Thompson officially became a member of the New Brockton Police Department Monday evening, July 12, as he took an oath to serve and protect the citizens of New Brockton during the monthly Town Council meeting. Officer Thompson recently completed training through the police academy. Before accepting the oath, New Brockton Mayor Charles Cole spoke of a recent incident where Thompson helped a motorist in need. Cole said the lady was extremely impressed with the officer's professionalism and commended him for the help he provided her in a time of need. Thompson accepted the oath from Circuit Judge Steve Blair (left).

During Elba City Council meeting

Police chief updates council members on drug arrests

by **Ferrin Cox, Publisher**

Mayor pro-tem Ronnie Hammond presided at the regular meeting of the Elba City Council Monday evening. Mayor James Grimes and council member David Bandstra were out of town at a city related meeting. All others were present and voting.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reported the arrest of four juveniles in a rash of vandalism which has been occurring around Elba in recent weeks. He also updated council members on the status of several recent drug busts.

Officers found over 400 marijuana plants in Elba several

weeks ago and on Sunday morning officers (city, county and state) arrested several individuals they say were involved in the illegal project. Four arrests were made, three for trafficking in narcotics. This investigation spread to Enterprise, where

Please See CITY, Page 12.

County BOE approves several personnel changes

by **Linda Hodge, Editor**

By approving and signing a resolution, the Coffee County

Board of Education gave its full support of a new program Wednesday, June 30, during a special meeting of the board.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram informed board members the school system was applying for a Fiscal Year 2005 21st Century Community Learning Centers subgrant, and upon approval of the grant, the system will establish a community learning center at Zion Chapel School.

If approved, Ingram said the grant will be a 3-year grant providing \$125,000 per year for the school system's new extended day program.

The board voted unanimously to offer full support to the establishment of the Zion Chapel Community Learning Center, and according to the resolution, the grant proposal indicates "a willingness to provide opportunities beyond the previously established school day for academic enrichment, to include tutorial services for students who are at risk of academic failure; enrichment activities that reinforce and complement the regular academic program; and literacy and other related opportunities for educational development and growth for families of students enrolled in the Zion Chapel School."

The resolution further stated, "This Board is confident that such a center will positively impact upon the regular school day and our efforts to provide maximum opportunities for students' school success. This Board is also confident that such a center will increase the quality of life for the Zion Chapel community. Additionally, this Board fully supports the inclusion of are, music, recreation activities, and an extended use of the library and entire school plant as a place for our students and their families to grow stronger as individuals and as a family unit."

Ingram said the grant application has been submitted to the Alabama State Department of Education for consideration.

In regards to personnel matters, the board also unanimously approved several recommendations from Ingram including:

Certificated

* Employ Shawn Castleberry as band director at New Brockton High School.

* Transfer David Speigner from his position as a community coop/carpentry teacher to a carpentry/technical teacher for grades 7-12.

* Employ Susan Taylor as a

Please See BOE, Page 3

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2003 CHEV SILVERADO 1500 Z 71
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#17118A \$REASONABLE OFFER

2002 CHEV SILVERADO LT Z 71
AT, V8, 4 X 4, 44,000 Miles, Pewter, Leather
#5086P \$REASONABLE OFFER



2003 F-150 SUPERCREW 4X4 XLT
SAVE - SAVE - SAVE



2002 CHEV 1500 SIL. LS - leather - windows - V8
- PDL - 26,000 miles #6018P \$REASONABLE OFFER



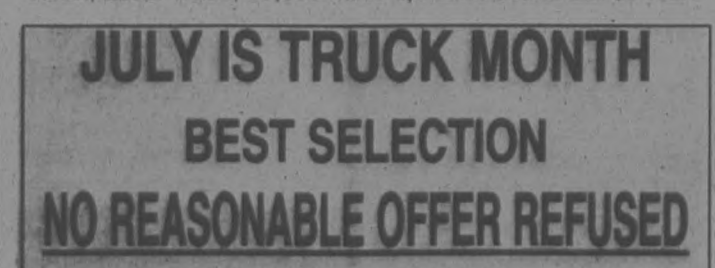
2000 F 150 XLT - local trade - one owner - PW - PL - AUTO - AC - #78086 \$REASONABLE OFFER



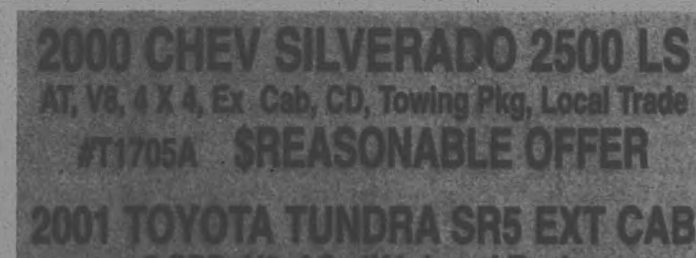
2000 CADILLAC SLS - 32V NorthStar, Moon Roof, Leather, 52,000 miles, Local Trade \$REASONABLE OFFER



1999 CADILLAC SLS - 32V NorthStar, Leather, Clean, Local Trade, 50,000 miles \$REASONABLE OFFER



2004 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5 SL - AT, AC, Driver Memory System, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Tilt-Teles Steering Wheel w/Memory, 17,000 miles, Local Trade \$REASONABLE OFFER



2000 CHEV SILVERADO 2500 LS
AT, V8, 4 X 4, Ex Cab, CD, Towing Pkg, Local Trade
#17105A \$REASONABLE OFFER



2001 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 EXT CAB
5 SPD, V8, AC, 4X4, Local Trade
#1733A \$REASONABLE OFFER



2000 SILVERADO 1500 LS - AT - 5300 Engine
- 19,000 miles #1711A \$REASONABLE OFFER



2004 LARIAT SUPERCREW 4 WD - AT, AC, PW, PL, leather interior #1313 \$REASONABLE OFFER



2000 FORD RANGER XLT - V6, EXT CAB, AT, AC
- 77,000 MILES, NICE #1655C \$REASONABLE OFFER

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During Coffee County Commission meeting

Request of Elba Industrial Board narrowly approved

by **Linda Hodge, Editor**

The Coffee County Commission narrowly voted to approve a request Monday, July 12, from the Elba Industrial Board regarding an expansion project for Kelley Foods of Alabama.

Paul Morrow, a member of the Elba Industrial Board, addressed commissioners during the bimonthly meeting, and requested the county's assistance in site preparation for the local company's expansion.

"Whatever we can do to help expand local business, you can

look for my hand in it," said commissioner Bernest Brooks. "I want to see it (Kelley Foods) grow."

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple said he would rather see the county assist by monetary means rather than assisting with the site preparation. He said the county already is behind in its road work, and he does not think it (county) has the time or equipment to help with the site preparation.

Also, he expressed a concern that the county is taking jobs away from residents with businesses that handle the kind of work requested from the county for the Kelley's project.

"I would be in favor of assisting Elba financially but not through equipment," Dalrymple.

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L.M. Burch seeks re-election to Elba City Council, District One

L.M. Burch this week announced his candidacy to citizens. He said the city has a good ambulance service, and he will continue to fight to keep it here.

Burch also serves as a member of the Coffee County E911 board, and he expressed thanks to Charlie Webb, director, and his staff for keeping the E911 service up-to-date in an effort to provide additional protection to the citizens of Elba and Coffee County.

"We are currently working on a street sign project throughout the city," he said. "This will benefit emergency personnel responding to calls and allow them to provide better service to our citizens in times of need."

Burch extended his thanks to the mayor and city council for the recent paving project for Kennedy Estates. He said the council is currently working to pave Highland Drive in the near future, as well as, other areas throughout the city.

"During my time as city councilman, I have been proud to be associated with the Elba Industrial Board as several industrial announcements have

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